REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 32 is pending in the present application.

Claim 32 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Grabbe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,836,791) in view of Lemke (U.S. Patent No. 4,601,527). It is respectfully submitted that claim 32 is allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention as recited in claim 32 includes the features of an insulative plate having insulative sleeves which are integral with the plate. The insulative plate is disposed adjacent to the second face of a medial wall of a conductive housing.

None of the cited prior art, on the other hand, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests "an insulative plate adjacent said second face of said medial wall with a plurality of insulative sleeves which are integral with said insulative plate", as defined by claim 32. In fact, as described further below, Grabbe et al. teaches away from the invention and teaches away from a combination with Lemke.

Grabbe et al. is directed to a coax connector assembly having dielectric members 90 (see, e.g., Figs. 3 and 7, and column 4, lines 26-28). The dielectric members 90, which the Examiner refers to as insulative sleeves, are molded over terminals 20. The terminals 20 are positioned in passages 16. However, as acknowledged by the Examiner, "Grabbe does not show the connector having an insulative plate adjacent to the second face of the medial wall" (Office Action, page 2, section 2). Although Grabbe et al. describes dielectric members 90 which the Examiner equates with insulative sleeves, these dielectric members are molded over the terminals 20 and have no association with, or relevance to, any insulative plate.

Lemke describes a shielded header having a dielectric housing with electrical pins mounted therein. Lemke shows a filter 70 in Figure 5 to provide additional protection against the escape of electromagnetic energy (column 3, lines 28-30). Pins 14 are soldered to the filter 70 (column 3, lines 30-31). Lemke fails to disclose or suggest any insulative sleeves.

More particularly, Grabbe et al. teaches away from providing an insulative plate with a plurality of insulative sleeves that are integral with the insulative plate, as recited by claim 32, and teaches away from a combination with Lemke. The dielectric members 90 in Grabbe et al. have projections 94 that do not contact the surface of the motherboard 4, but instead

contact portions of interconnection members 160, 162 (see Figures 4 and 7, and column 6, lines 20-32, for example). The interconnection members 160, 162 are disposed on the surface of the motherboard 4 and have openings 170 for spacing and receiving the terminals 20 (see Figure 3, 4, and 7).

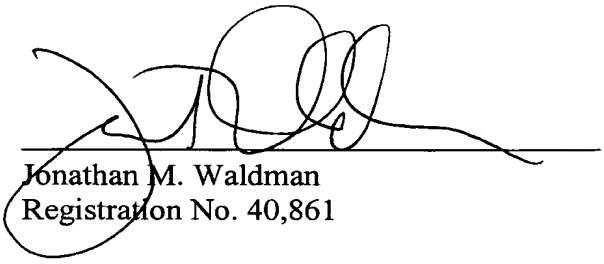
The dielectric member projections 94 do not go through the openings 170 in the interconnection members 160, 162, and are spaced apart so as to not touch each other. Instead, the dielectric member projections 94 contact spring arms 172, 174 that are provided near the openings 170. The contact spring arms 172, 174 will engage various surfaces with a wiping action to insure that a positive electrical connection is made (column 7, lines 36-62). Thus, the spring arms 172, 174 prevent the dielectric members 90 from being integral with an insulative plate or a filter such as that taught by Lemke. Therefore, if the dielectric members of Grabbe et al. were combined with the filter of Lemke, the dielectric members would not be integral with the filter of Lemke. In fact, if such a combination were made, the purpose of the spring arms 172, 174 would be negated.

The Office Action states that "all that applicant has done is make an obvious combination of the disclosures of the prior art accomplishing no more than the expected result thereof" (Office Action, page 3). The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's analysis. In view of Grabbe et al.'s teaching away from dielectric members being integral with an insulative plate or a filter, and instead teaching that these dielectric members must not be integral with such an insulative plate or filter, it is respectfully submitted that the artisan would not have found it obvious to use the filter of Lemke in conjunction with the dielectric members of Grabbe et al. Moreover, the Examiner is asked to provide documentary evidence to support the assertion on page 3 of the Office Action, particularly that "all that the applicant has done is make an obvious combination of the disclosures of the prior art accomplishing no more than the expected result thereof." MPEP §2144.03(C).

Based on the foregoing, claim 32 should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Grabbe et al. in view of Lemke, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Date: March 23, 2004



Jonathan M. Waldman
Registration No. 40,861

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439